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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,125	06/15/2001	Scott Roberts	MSI-887US	8251

22801 7590 04/07/2004

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EXAMINER

THAI, CUONG T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,125

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS, SCOTT

Examiner

CUONG T THAI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) None is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

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PART III. DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-39 are presented for examination.
2. The drawings filed on June/15/2001 have been reviewed and approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particular point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 1, lines 7-8, "first-level data item or subordinate data indicator" has improper alternative limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102(e) that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-5, 7, 15, and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Rosen et al. (USPN: 6,563,522) hereinafter Rosen.

As per claims 1 (GUI) and 15 (computer readable medium), Rosen discloses a user interface for displaying hierarchical data as the technique of the design tool includes a graphical user interface that visually represents a hierarchical data and the relationship between the data (see col. 3, lines 44-46), comprising:

A first-level display for displaying one or more first-level data items in the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of the outputs hierarchy is comprises of output levels. Linkages are automatically generated between an interface component in a parent output level and an interface component in a child output level (see col. 7, lines 16-19);

At least one field associated with each first-level data item, each field configured to display a first-level data sub-item associated with the first-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of when the user selects the field from a table that is related to the primary table via a one-to-many relationship, the design tool identifies an interface component in a child output level of the first output level (see col. 7, lines 40-43).

Wherein the presence of the subordinate data indicator in the field indicates that the field has a subordinate data associated with the field, the subordinate data being subordinate to the first-level data items in the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of header 302 contains fields heading for bands 304, 306 and 316. Bands 304, 306 and 316 contains employee information from the employee ID, last name and first name fields of an employee table...Icon 300 is used to expand or reduce a sub-band interface component which is a child of a band. The user can expand a sub-band

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of a band and reduce the sub-band by selecting icon 300 (see col. 9, lines 49-60).

These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 2 (GUI) and 20 (computer readable medium), the limitation of wherein the subordinate data further comprises one or more second-level data item in the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of there are Level Two and Level Three in the hierarchical data structure (see Fig. 2A). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claims 7 (GUI) and 19 (computer readable medium), the limitation of wherein the first-level display is in a table format having rows and columns, each row represents a first-level data item, and each column represents a field are taught by Rosen's Fig. 3B wherein the Departments table include the first-level of Employee ID in the table format having rows and columns, each row represents first-levels of 10000023 and 10056626, and each column represent a field of Employee full name. These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 3 (GUI) and 17 (computer readable medium), Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the subordinate data indicator is an actuatable icon that, when actuated, displayed the subordinate data as the technique of GUI 600 of a design tool includes data palette 602. Data palette 602 includes table, field and relationship entries. Icons 604A-604E provide information about its associated entry. For example, icons

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604A and 604 B identify an entry as a table entry or a field entry, respectively. Icons 604C-604E identify entry as a relationship and the type of the relationship. Icon 604C indicates that the relationship is a one-to-many relationship (see col. 12, lines 10-17). These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 4 (GUI) and 21 (computer readable medium), Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the subordinate data, when displayed, is displayed in a format similar to a format in which the first-level data is displayed as the technique of data palette 602 can be included in a design tool that is used to build an application's interface. The user can scroll through the entries in data palette 602 and selects the fields to be included in an interface component such as a form, view or sub-band. The user identifies an interface component that is being built using a design tool (see col. 12, lines 37-43 and see Fig. 6). These claims are therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claims 5 (GUI) and 18 (computer readable medium), Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the subordinate data, when displayed, is displayed so that the first-level data associated with the subordinate data indicator is still visible on the display as the technique of subordinate data of first level of employees 604C with its associated of employees, employeeid, lastname, firstname, address, etc. are still visible on the display (see Fig. 6). These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8-12, 14 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen et al. (USPN: 6,563,522) hereinafter Rosen as applied to claims above in view of Banning et al. (USPN: 5,485,567) hereinafter Banning.

As per claim 8, Rosen discloses a graphical user interface as the technique of the design tool includes a graphical user interface that visually represents a hierarchical data and the relationship between the data (see col. 3, lines 44-46), comprising:

A first table that displays first-level data items in hierarchical data, the first table having a row for each first-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a first-level data sub-item associated with the first-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of Department Table(s) in Level One (see Fig. 2A) wherein Department table includes the sub-item of One-To-Many relationship (see Fig. 2A) and table having a row for each first-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a first-level data sub-item associated with the first-level data item (see Fig. 3B).

A second table that displays second-level data items in hierarchical data, the second table having a row for each second-level data item and one or more columns,

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each column representing a second-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of Employee Table in Level Two (see Fig. 2B), wherein Employee table includes the sub-item of One-To-Many relationship (see Fig. 2B) and second table having a row for each second-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a second-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data item (see Fig. 3B).

Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitation of an actuable first-level subordinate data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the first table that, when actuated, causes at least a portion of the second table to be displayed.

Banning discloses the limitation of data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the first table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed as the technique of the invention allows a user to view the details concerning the definitions of a table by double click on a particular icon with a mouse button. For example, if a user positions the cursor over a particular column icon 120, and double clicks the mouse button, then the dialog box appears with detailed information relation to the column (see col. 4, lines 42-47 and see Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Banning teaching of data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the first table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed into that of Rosen's second table and further into Rosen invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing user easy to navigate through hierarchical tables structure based on user's desired manner.

As per claim 9, Rosen discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein the first-level subordinate data indicator is only displayed when there is subordinate data associated with the first-level data sub-item associated with the row and column in which the first-level subordinate data indicator is displayed.

Banning discloses the limitation of wherein the first-level subordinate data indicator is only displayed when there is subordinate data associated with detailed information as the technique of a foreign key is one or more column in a table whose values match the values of a primary key of a table (see col. 3, lines 45-46 and see Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Banning teaching of foreign key subordinate value match primary key value into that of Rosen invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by displaying only indicator when subordinate data whose values match to primary key values. Thus, the system would be enhanced by identifying directly to its user what item in the level has subordinate data associated with it.

As per claim 11, Rosen discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Rosen discloses a third table that displays third-level data items in hierarchical data, the third table having a row for each third-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a third-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data

item is taught by Rosen as the technique of Award-Employee Tables in Level Three (see Fig. 2B), wherein Award-Employee Tables includes Employee A and Employee B (see Fig. 2B) and table having a row for each third-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a second-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of sub-band 236 can display fields of information that identify the awards given to a particular employee (see col. 9, lines 29-31).

Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitation of an actuable second-level subordinate data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the second table that, when actuated, causes at least a portion of the third table to be displayed.

Banning discloses the limitation of data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the first table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed as the technique of the invention allows a user to view the details concerning the definitions of a table by double click on a particular icon with a mouse button. For example, if a user positions the cursor over a particular column icon 120, and double clicks the mouse button, then the dialog box appears with detailed information relation to the column (see col. 4, lines 42-47 and see Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Banning teaching of data indicator displayable in a column of a row in the first table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed into that of Rosen's third table and further into Rosen invention. By doing so,

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the system would be enhanced by allowing user easy to navigate through hierarchical tables structure based on user's desired manner.

As per claim 10, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 5, except for first table's row indicator visible when second table is displayed instead of first-level indicator visible when subordinate is displayed, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 5.

As per claim 14, the limitation of wherein the hierarchical data is a database is taught by Rosen as the technique of the output hierarchy is created based on the data relationships that exist between the data that selected by the user. A first level of output hierarchy displays data from fields contained in the primary database table that is selected by the user (see col. 4, lines 17-21). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 23, due to the similarity of this claim to the combination of claims 8-9, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claims 8 and 9.

As per claim 24, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 10, except for readable medium instead of GUI system, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 10.

As per claim 12, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 10, except for second table's row indicator visible when third table is displayed instead of first table's row indicator visible when second table is displayed, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 10.

As per claim 25, Rosen discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Rosen discloses displaying at least a portion of a third table that displays third-level data items in hierarchical data set, the third table having a row for each third-level data item and one or more columns that each column representing a third-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of Award-Employee Tables in Level Three (see Fig. 2B), wherein Award-Employee Tables includes Employee A and Employee B (see Fig. 2B) and table having a row for each third-level data item and one or more columns, each column representing a second-level data sub-item associated with the second-level data item is taught by Rosen as the technique of sub-band 236 can display fields of information that identify the awards given to a particular employee (see col. 9, lines 29-31).

Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitations of displaying one or more actuatable subordinate data icons in the second table, each in a column of a row in the second table that, when actuated, causes at least a portion of the third table to be displayed and wherein the actuatable subordinate data icon is only displayed in the second table if there is third level data that corresponding with the second-level data

sub-item associated with the column in which the actuatable subordinate data icon is displayed.

Banning discloses the limitation of actuatable subordinate data icon displayable in a column of a row in the table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed as the technique of the invention allows a user to view the details concerning the definitions of a table by double click on a particular icon with a mouse button. For example, if a user positions the cursor over a particular column icon 120, and double clicks the mouse button, then the dialog box appears with detailed information relation to the column (see col. 4, lines 42-47 and see Fig. 2) and Banning also discloses the limitation of actuatable subordinate data icon is only displayed in the table if there is subordinate data associated with detailed information as the technique of a foreign key is one or more column in a table whose values match the values of a primary key of a table (see col. 3, lines 45-46 and see Fig. 2).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Banning teachings of actuatable subordinate data icon displayable in a column of a row in the table that, when actuated, causes detailed information to be displayed and actuatable subordinate data icon is only displayed in the table if there is subordinate data associated with detailed information into that of Rosen's table invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing user easy to navigate through hierarchical tables structure based on user's desired manner.

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As per claim 26, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 12, except for computer readable medium instead of GUI system, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 12.

9. Claims 6, 13, 16, and 27-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen et al. (USPN: 6,563,522) hereinafter Rosen as applied to claims above in view of Sorge et al. (USPN: 6,613,098) hereinafter Sorge.

As per claims 6 (GUI) and 16 (computer readable medium), Rosen discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein the hierarchical data comprises extensible markup language.

Sorge discloses the limitation of wherein the hierarchical data comprises extensible markup language as the technique of complex features that require records map well to XML (see col. 14, lines 34-54).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sorge teaching of wherein the hierarchical data comprises extensible markup language into that of Rosen invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by allowing user to write document information in XML format which easy to implement and to produce better service to its end user compared to Rosen's textual language.

As per claim 13, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 6, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 6.

As per claim 27, Rosen discloses a method for displaying hierarchical data as the technique of the design tool includes a graphical user interface that visually represents a hierarchical data and the relationship between the data (see col. 3, lines 44-46), comprising:

Traversing the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of when the user selects the field from a table that is related to the primary table via a one-to-many relationship, the design tool identifies an interface component in a child output level of the first output level (see col. 7, lines 40-43) and the outputs hierarchy is comprises of output levels. Linkages are automatically generated between an interface component in a parent output level and an interface component in a child output level (see col. 7, lines 16-19);

Building a visual representation for each level of the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of the design tool includes a graphical user interface that visually represents a hierarchical data and the relationship between the data (see col. 3, lines 44-46);

Storing the visual representation for at least a first level of the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of using main memory 115 and mass storage (see col. 5, lines 45-46 and see Fig. 1);

Displaying the visual representation for at least a first level of the hierarchical data is taught by Rosen as the technique of the design tool includes a graphical user

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interface that visually represents a hierarchical data and the relationship between the data (see col. 3, lines 44-46 and see Fig. 2B);

Rosen, however, does not disclose displaying hierarchical data in hypertext markup language and visual representation in HTML.

Sorge discloses the limitation of displaying hierarchical data in hypertext markup language and visual representation in HTML as the technique of a method is defined for saving data having a format and functionality specific to a parent spreadsheet program into a hypertext markup language (HTML) format (see col. 3, lines 21-24) and a spreadsheet program saves data into a hypertext markup language (HTML) document that can be viewed with a browser program (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sorge teaching of displaying hierarchical data in hypertext markup language and visual representation in HTML into that of Rosen invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by user to write document information in HTML format for easy to implement and to produce better service to its end user.

As per claim 33, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 27, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 27.

As per claim 28, Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the at least a first level of the hierarchical further comprises a top level of the hierarchical data as the technique

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of top level department (see Fig. 6). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 29, Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the traversing the hierarchical data comprises a depth-first manner as the technique of the relationships associated with the primary table are also displayed below the primary table entry. A relationship can be expanded or reduced using icon 300. When the relationship is expanded, icon 300 displays a (-) symbol. Conversely, when a relationship is reduced, icon 300 depicts a "+" symbol (see col. 12, lines 30-36 and see Fig. 6). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 30, Rosen discloses the limitation of wherein the visual displays are built for all of the hierarchical data before any of the displays are displayed is taught by Rosen as the technique of the design tool associates an interface component with an output level and displays the association in the design tool's GUI display. The output hierarchy is created based on the data relationship that exist between the data that is selects by the user (see col. 4, lines 14-19) and generate table hierarchy 704 and display primary table and its fields 706 (see Fig. 7). This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 36, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 6, this claim is therefore rejected for the same reason applied to claim 6.

As per claims 31 and 35, Rosen discloses the limitation of displaying the visual representation for at least a second level of the hierarchical data as the technique of displaying level two of Employee table (s) and Jobpostings table(s) corresponds to one-to-many relationship from level one (see Fig. 2B).

Rosen also discloses the limitation of displaying a second actuatable subordinate data indicator that, when actuated, displays a third level of the hierarchical data, the third level of the hierarchical subordinate to the second level of the hierarchical data as the technique of Level Two of Employees A-D and its subordinates of Level Three of Award Employee A and Award Employee B (see Fig. 2B). These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 32 and 34, due to the similarity of each of these claims to that of claim 6, these claims are therefore rejected for the same reasons applied to claim 6.

As per claim 37, the limitation of determining if the second-level display has been previously created and creating the second-level display only if the second-level display has not previously been created is taught by Rosen as the technique of decision making REL. IS A 1-M REL block 720 (see Fig. 7B) wherein if it is determined, at step 720, that the relationship is not a one-to-many relationship, processing continues at step 714 to examination any remaining relationships in table hierarchy 500. If it is determined, at step 720, that the relationship is a one-to-many relationship, processing continues at

step 722 to make the current output's child output level (see col. 16, lines 3-9). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

10. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosen et al. (USPN: 6,563,522) hereinafter Rosen as applied to claims above in view of Sorge et al. (USPN: 6,613,098) hereinafter Sorge.

As per claim 22, Rosen discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Rosen discloses the first level data items, the first level sub-items and the data indicator are displayed in a first format as the technique of the technique of data palette 602 can be included in a design tool that is used to build an application's interface. The user can scroll through the entries in data palette 602 and selects the fields to be included in an interface component such as a form, view or sub-band. The user identifies an interface component that is being built using a design tool (see col. 12, lines 37-43 and see Fig. 6).

Rosen, however, does not disclose the limitation of the subordinate data is displayed in a second format.

Sorge discloses the limitation of subordinate data is displayed in a second format as the technique of complex features that require records map well to XML (see col. 14, lines 34-54).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Sorge teaching of subordinate data is displayed in a second XML format into that of Rosen invention. By doing so, the system would be

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enhanced by allowing itself to display the subordinate data in a second XML format because XML format is easy to implement and to produce better service in term of speed to its end user compared to HTML format.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 38 and 39 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Examiner carefully considered claims 38 and 39 of the present application.

None of the prior arts of record including Sorge et al. (USPN: 6,613,098), Draper et al. (USPN: 6,581,062), Rosen et al. (USPN: 6,563,522), Leschner (USPN: 6,519,588), Lau (USPN: 6,381,600), Alam et al. (USPN: 6,336,124), Mital et al. (USPN: 6,189,012), McLain et al. (USPN: 5,974,532), Sacks (USPN: 5,974,407), Kierna et al. (USPN: 5,701,137) nor Banning et al. (USPN: 5,485,567) discloses a method for displaying hierarchical data in hypertext markup language comprising the step of determining if the second-level display has been previously created further comprises referencing a data path that indicates whether the second-level display has been previously created (see claim 38) nor discloses a method for displaying hierarchical data in hypertext markup language comprising the step of determining if the second-level display has been previously created further comprises referencing a data path that indicates whether the second-level display has been previously created and wherein the

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method further comprises appending information to the data path when the second-level display is created if the second-level display has not previously been created, the information indicating that the second-level display has been created (see claim 39).

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach a method and a system for creating, linking, navigating, and modifying data tables in hierarchical structure by using graphical base user interface.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG T THAI whose telephone number is (703) 308-7234. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communication)

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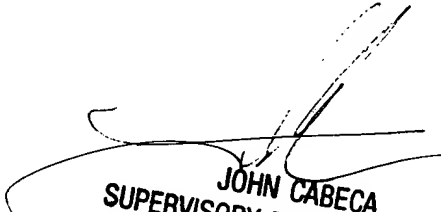
(703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

(703) 746-7240 (For status inquiries, Draft Communication).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8000.

CUONG T THAI
Examiner
Art Unit 2173

March 31, 2004


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100